

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An emergency alert system comprising:

an emergency alert service-providing system adapted to receive emergency alert messages from an alert message source and configured to communicate with networked appliances over a network;

said emergency alert service-providing system being configured to selectively relay said received emergency alert messages to said networked appliances based on registration information received from said networked appliances.

2. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system includes message filtering system to selectively screen said received emergency alert messages so that selected ones of said received emergency alert messages are relayed to said networked appliances.

3. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said received emergency alert messages are provided by a broadcast source.

4. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system generates a beacon message to which said

networked appliances respond in order to register with said emergency alert service-providing system.

5. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system includes message formatting system to selectively format said received emergency alert messages so that at least some of said received emergency alert messages are altered in format based on the capabilities of at least one of said networked appliances.

6. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system is further configured to provide control signals to a monitor appliance adapted for monitoring said received emergency alert messages.

7. The emergency alert system of claim 6 wherein said control signals comprise a monitor turn-on signal operative to energize said monitor appliance.

8. The emergency alert system of claim 6 wherein said control signals comprise a monitor wakeup signal operative to awake said monitor appliance from a sleep condition.

9. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system is further configured to provide signal redirection

service whereby said received emergency alert messages are relayed to a remote device that is not in direct networked communication with said network.

10. The emergency alert system of claim 9 wherein said remote device is a telecommunication device.

11. The emergency alert system of claim 9 wherein said remote device is a cellular telephone.

12. The emergency alert system of claim 9 wherein said remote device is an instant messaging system.

13. The emergency alert system of claim 9 wherein said remote devices is a home network device.

14. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system is further configured to provide signal redirection service whereby said received emergency alert messages are relayed to an instant messaging system.

15. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said networked appliance is selected from the group consisting of television, microwave, home

automation controller, home entertainment system, kitchen appliance, and telephone system.

16. The emergency alert system of claim 1 further comprising a configuration mechanism that adapts said emergency alert message to a predetermined device.

17. The emergency alert system of claim 1 further comprising a configuration mechanism that adapts said emergency alert message to a particular user.

18. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said networked appliance is a lighting control system adapted to provide emergency alert messages by flashing controlled lighting in a predetermined way.

19. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system is implemented using a processor disposed within a device associated with said network.

20. The emergency alert system of claim 19 wherein said processor is disposed within a receiver adapted to receive said emergency alert message.

21. The emergency alert system of claim 1 wherein said emergency alert service-providing system is implemented using plural processors disposed on a plural devices associated with said network.

22. The emergency alert system of claim 1 further comprising unicasting mechanism that causes said received emergency alert message to be sent to a predetermined device.

23. The emergency alert system of claim 1 further comprising multicasting mechanism that causes said received emergency alert message to be sent to a predetermined group of devices.

24. The emergency alert system of claim 1 further comprising broadcasting mechanism that causes said received emergency alert message to be sent to all devices communicating with said network.